

**REMARKS**

Attached hereto is a Petition and fee for a two-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a).

Entry of this Amendment is proper because it narrows the issues on appeal and does not require further search by the Examiner.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Allowable claims 3-5, 11-14 and 16-21 are all of the claims pending in the present Application. Rejected claims 1-2, 6-10, 15 and 22-30 have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the prior art rejections. Claims 3-5 and 11 have been rewritten in independent form, thereby to place the entire case into condition for allowance.

**FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 3-5, 11-14 and 16-21, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

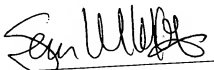
Serial No. 09/690,455  
Docket No. C14-127596M/YAH

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 10/20/03

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